The Orthodox Herald

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SOBORNOST

The Role of Peter (continued)

There is no doubt, that in the earliest life of the Mother-Church of Jerusalem, the part St. Peter plays is obviously in the forefront. But how does Orthodox interpretation define this role? Koulomzine explains:

> "The word "head" or "chief" implies a personal power to command, but nothing of the sort is specifically set down by the texts. The word "president" sounds wrong, something of an anachronism. The title of "First Bishop" must also be rejected, for this is an absolute anachronism in the first period and takes no account of the part played by the other apostles, among whom Peter is, as it were, *primus inter pares;* neither does it recognize what an entirely special and unique situation there was in the Pentecostal Church. Saint Matthew does not use any such titles (and his materials and their composition are generally traced to Jerusalem circles); he cites Peter in the list of the Twelve Apostles (Matthew 10:2) with the description, or should we say the title, of "First,"; as though, apparently, it was impossible to describe his position in any better way."

The College of the Twelve

Koulomzine emphatically stresses that Peter is **first of the Twelve, first among the Twelve.** He maintains that Acts confirms that: "Peter never acts or speaks alone, but in company with the Twelve, or sometimes John." And he likewise stresses that Peter had to play his part of "First among the Twelve" **within the Church.**

Meyendorff concurs that whatever particular authority was commissioned by Jesus to Peter, or the Twelve or a larger group for that matter, can only be an authority **within the Church,** and **never over it.**

> "This is way the exegetes will never stop discussing the problem of defining whether texts like John 20:22 and Matthew 16:18 were addressed to the

(Continued on Page 129 Col. 1)

O Thou who has given us so much, Mercifully grant us one thing more, a Grateful Heart.

We confess that we have not been as grateful as the cleansed leper who returned to give thanks.

Sometimes we forget about you, once the crisis is past. Often we just think we are too busy. At other times we simply fail to see your hand in our healing. And sometimes we have continued to be preoccupied with the problems that remain instead of being grateful for those which have been solved.

Most seriously, we have often taken our health and our well-ordered lives for granted, failing to thank you for the rhythmic beating of our hearts, and for the food on our tables, and for the comforts we enjoy.

Grant us, we pray, not only the benefit of your generosity and your healing, but also the inner miracle of the soul which seeks to express its heartfelt thanks.

OIL ON FOREHEAD

Many of our people call it mirovanya. But myrrh is not used. What are we talking about?

At Vespers on some Great Holy Days, bread, wheat, wine and oil are blessed. The blessed oil is used to anoint the forehead with the sign of the Cross and with the word: "In the Name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit." This anointing takes place at the Matin Service but is delayed in some parishes to the Sunday following the Holy Day. This anointing is done as a sign that the mercy of God is given to us and that God demands in return acts of mercy.

In days gone by, it was traditional for people to blot the excess oil with their prayer book. As the oil was often scented with rose water, their prayer books always had the faint perfume smell of roses.

VETERAN'S DAY

On Sunday, November 11 we will observe Veterans' Day, which was originally called Armistice Day. On this day in 1918, World War I ended, when Germany signed an armistice agreement. Since then, the day has expanded to include all veterans. With the terrorist attacks in our country two months ago, and the calling upon our military personnel to protect us, the day has special meaning this year. We print here a prayer which was sent to Chaplain W. Basil Stroyen, USAF, who requested a prayer in 1952 for the service personnel. Metropolitan T. Leonty sent him this prayer which was then placed in all the prayer books and prayed in unison at all Chapel services.

A SERVICEMAN'S PRAYER

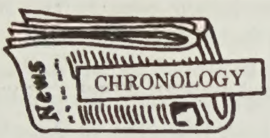
We thank Thee, O Lord our God for all the blessings which Thou givest us. Thou hast kept us by Thy power in good health during the night and Thou hast called us up from sleep, that we may enjoy the light of day and to marvel at Thy Majesty. We entreat Thee, O Lord, grant that we may live this day without danger or sin, but full of Thy mercies and Thy divine care. Protect my family and the families of my fellow-servicemen from all evil. Enlighten the peoples who conquer and torture other nations; make them repent and seek peace, leaving other lands and their dwellers free. Open Thou the eyes of our mind to see Thy divine law and incline our hearts ever to do Thy commandments, to the glory of Thine all-holy Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

O Thou Loving Father of us all, Who art here and everywhere, let Thy blessing be upon my loved ones at home. Keep them in Thy gracious care, protect them by Thy power and make their hearts glad in the thought of Thy nearness. Help them and help me to feel that however separated we are by distance, in Thee we are close to each other. Amen.

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The road of life is steep and rough and no one should attempt it without prayer.

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NOVEMBER 2001

PRAYERS ON SLIPS OF PAPER have been traditionally slipped into cracks of the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Now virtual Jerusalem.com receives as many as 1500 e-mails per month from all over the world, wishing to reach out to God electronically. To conserve paper, staffers break open the floppy disks that contain the messages and wedge the magnetic tape into the wall.

A NEW MINISTRY IS BEING FORMED to address the issue of abortion. For info contact: Orthodox Christians for Life, 7228 Baptist Rd., PMB# 188, Bethel Park, PA 15102 or call 412-851-9310.

ST. NECTARIOS SOCIETY RETREAT will be held from Nov. 2-4 in Lenox, MA at the Village Inn. Cost $25. Info and reservations 203/748-0671 or 203/894-1157.

LIFE OF ST. NECTARIOS, an illustrated book for children, can be purchased for $6 plus postage from St. Nectarios Press at 10300 Ashworth Ave., N, Seattle WA 98133-9410. Other titles are also available. Call Nina for price and discount costs at 1-800/643-4233. Adults would also find this book helpful in learning about the life of this saint who died in 1920.

THE RUSSIAN CHAMBER CHORUS OF NY, under the direction of Nikola Kachanov, will perform Rachmaninoff's Vespers at 8 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 17 at 8 at Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall.

Tickets from 212/247-7800 or www.carnegiehall.org

INFORMATION ON STEM CELL RESEARCH can be found on www.oca.org. It reads in part: "Orthodox Christianity accepts the fact that human life begins at conception, the extraction of stem cells from embryos, which involves the willful taking of human life – the embryo is human life and not just a 'clump of cells' – is considered morally and ethically wrong in every instance."

THE BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANASTASIA, whose patron is the great martyr and deliverer from bonds, has been working to help prisoners in Russia. Founded in 1992, it sponsors a chaplain to work in two adult and two children's corrective labor camps. One of its main groups is a body of 40 women organized as the Protection of the Most Holy Mother of God, which does volunteer work in three hospitals. The Brotherhood has a shelter for 30 abandoned children. For info and to help write: Congress of Russian Americans, Att. St. Anastasia Brotherhood, 2460 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115-3016.

THE FOUNDER OF THE WORLD'S HELICOPTER INDUSTRY, Igor Sikorsky was honored in St. Petersburg, Russia by being entered into the Golden Book. This entry acknowledges his contribution to the development of aviation and his importance to the city's history. He fled his homeland in 1918, was considered a non-person during the Soviet era, and died in 1972 in America. Many seminarians, among them Fr. Basil Stroyen and Thomas Bushallow, remember his spending at least a week at St. Tikhon's Monastery in Great Lent for goveniye and meditation before receiving the Holy Eucharist. Mr. Sikorsky was a founder of the beautiful, 12th century Novgorod style church, which is graced by 9 cupolas. Unfortunately, St. Nicholas Church, 1 Honeyspot Rd., Stratford, CT 06615 was struck by lightning on August 10. It cannot be used for worship until the structural damage is corrected.

A GIRL'S TEA is held each year on the Holy Day of the Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple on Nov. 21/Dec. 4 at St. George's Cathedral in Toledo, Ohio. For information on planning a Tea, call 419/475-7054 or write Khouriye Victoria Ziton, 3754 Woodley Rd., Toledo, OH 43606.

LET THE HEAVENS REJOICE is a compact disc released by Holy Protection Church, 3820 Moores Lake Rd., Dover, FL 33527 for $15 ppd. The liturgical music is beautifully sung in Ukrainian, Slavonic and English.

ST. NICHOLAS Greek Orthodox Church, located across the street from the Trade Center, was destroyed on Sept. 11. Buried under 15 stories high of debris everything including relics of three saints: St. Nicholas, Katherine and Sava and icons which were gifts of Czar Nicholas II. The church was constructed in 1832 and housed a tavern. Greek immigrants made it a church in 1916. Telly and George Savalas's parents were among the first parishioners. In addition to Divine Liturgy on Sundays, the church was open for prayer every Wednesday noon when many Trade Center workers stopped for prayer. A fund has been started to rebuild the church as a memorial church at St. Nicholas Church, Atlantic Bank, 8010 5th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11209. Acct. No. 09062602.

THE IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) has been designated to coordinate relief efforts in wake of the destruction of the World Trade Center. Call 877/774-0217 for help, counseling, etc. and 212/570-3595 to volunteer services or donate funds or supplies.

NOVEMBER 30 will be 7 years since all the hierarchs of the Orthodox Church met in Ligonier, PA to discuss unity.

UNTRADITIONAL "ICONS" are to be found in a new church in Petresti, Romania. They are on a fresco inside the church porch over a short text which says, "When man shouted 'Stop the world, I want to get off,' God intervened through these three providential men to change it." The faces are those of former US President George Bush, Pope John Paul and ex-Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Continued from front page)

SOBORNOST

community or a narrower group of disciples. Obviously the editors of Jesus' sayings did not feel that this was an issue at all. The identification between Christ and the community made impossible any human authority **over** the People of God.'

There is, however, one area in which human authority does stand **above** the Church, as a condition of its very existence: the role of being witness to the Resurrection. This unique function in the Church was assigned by Christ Himself to a group of disciples "chosen" by Him, and, in particular, to the Twelve (Acts 1:8; cf. Luke 24:48). Without faith in the Risen Lord, there is no Church...but "how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? And how can men preach unless they are sent (*apostalosin*)?" (Romans 10:14)

For its claim to be based on historical fact, the Christian faith relies upon the apostolic "witness." This is a unique and untransmissible privilege of those who had actually seen the Risen Lord. The election of Matthias to replace Judas shows clearly that membership in the College of the Twelve supposed him to be "a witness to His resurrection." (Acts 1:22)

It is understandable, then, that the death of one of the Twelve, recorded in Acts 12:2 ("Herod...killed James, the brother of John, with the sword"), is not followed by any new election. Judas, who had apostasized the faith, needed a substitute; such was not the case of James, who had been martyred for the faith. As "college" the twelve ceased to exist historically with the death of James; in time, its entire membership would disappear. The task of the "community" would consist in preserving the apostles' ministry without them.

Fr. Michael Dahulich, Ph.D.
Seminary of St. Tikhon- Adm. Dean

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No matter what scales we use, we can never know the weight of another person's burdens.

ETHNIC CHUCKLE

Dorohaya Tyotya Mareya,

Yak tam kolo vas? Toot shitko OK noh yah mam takee sore throat ee yah dumam zhe yah scrazuyou trying to make me staree hear me.

Me. staree neh chuyeh dobree. Ohn neh admit do toho. Yah neh znam chee ohn mah hearing problem chee ohn tunes me out. Sometimes yah mushu povestee yehmu dva che tree times then yah starting to kretchatee. A ohn takee mad ee prosit chemu yah hollering. Kolee yah kazhu zhe yah already told him three times, ohn takee upset nah meneh, ee kazhe, "You think I'm deaf?"

Yah dumam what I gotta do? Yah neh mozhu tak zhetee. Finally, yah dumam zhe yah dam yehmu dose of same medicine. Kolee ohn doh mene budey talking yah will tune him out ili budyu saying – what? what? Ohn neh lubit tot situation ee decided to ask his friend – takee neighborhood philosof shto he ought to do. Philosof skazal yemu to try an experiment. Me husband bral yeho advice.

Tot vecher kolee yah peeling bandurkee nah supper standing with me pletchee doh rooma, me husband stood in the dining room dveree ee zvidaesa, "Can you hear me?"

Yah nech neh kazhu. Then ohn preshol a few steps closer ee asked, "Chewyesh menah?" Yah nech neh kazhu no yah could hardly trematesa from laughing.

Then ohn preshol closer, "Can you hear me?" Again yah nech neh kazhu. Ohn panicoval – duma moshe yah barz hluha.

Then ohn stood close to me ee zvidaesya, "Hanya, chewyesh mene?" Yah very teeho answered – "For the fourth time - yes!"

Yah neh znam shto ohn ee philospf balakalee – noh me husband make appointment in ear clinic.

Budte Zdrove
Shouting Hanya

* * * * * *

Prayer is a voluntary relationship with our Heavenly Father. It is not an appeal to Him under duress.

FUNDS

ALASKA - Tom Swift, Fr. Alexis Fedec in memory of his brother, Dr. Stephan, who died 7/11/01. Willing Mamay on 10th memorial for son, David, and on 60th wedding anniversary of Bill and Mary Mamay.

MISSION - Eleanor Green, Marge German.

ALASKA AND MISSION - Anonymous, Frank Moroz, Ethel Watlock, Gloria Bench.

POSTAGE - Mary Hritcko, Anonymous, Eleanor Green, Olga Kozlowski, Emma Timora, Evelyn Callas, John Lester, Marge German, Marian Barber, Zeneida Bebis, Gloria Bench, James McJilton.

PRESS FUND - Ethel Watlock, Natasha Zonitch, Ella Daley, Anonymous (2), Anne Dorozynski, Georgeann Klipa, Catherine Shaffchick, Katherine Gallacher, Doris Rusinko, Thomas Shakun, Daniel Holovach, George Zakutansky, Frank Moroz, Helen Derbak. Anita Anderson for souls that lost lives on Sept. 11 in terrorist raids. Johanna and Jim Wagner in memory of father, Stephen Feltovich, who died Sept. 29, 1968, and brother, Michael Feltovich, who died Sept. 1, 1988. Gloria given in memory of John Bench Jr., who died on Jan. 13, 2001. Steve and Irene Pacak prayers for souls of departed grandparents, Stephen and Mary Roman Dzubay, and John. The Stroyens in memory of their niece, Loretta Komyati Sorenson. Emma Timora in memory of husband, Fred, and parents, Sophia and John Murin, and in-laws, Annie and Daniel Timora. John and Theona Hatzi prayers for health of Presvytera Mary Leadis. Anna Plefka for health of Steve and Lenora Evancho, Claudia Sulin, Mary Kovachick and Vera Utterback. Steve and Lenora Evancho for health of Claudia Sulin, cousins Marie Check and Helen Sulin Maxhimer. Best on their wedding anniversaries to Steve and Irene Pacak on their 50th and Peter and Mary Kochmaruk on their 60th on September 20. Almost since their wedding day sixty years ago, Peter and Mary Kochmaruk have cared lovingly for their church in Palmerton, PA. It is a small parish and most of the time they have no resident pastor. Nevertheless, they keep it spic and span ready for an immediate service if God wills. The grass is always cut and flowers bloom in the summertime. The church was built by men who came to the area to work in the lead mines. The mines have since closed and the miners and their families have left. The freshly painted church with its distinctive cupola remains a visible testimony to the care of Peter and Mary.

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The closest most people ever come to reaching their ideal is when they write their resumes.

IT'S NOT BIBLICAL

One of the first lessons we learned in Sunday School was that the Orthodox Church bases its teachings on Scripture and Holy Tradition. In November we celebrate the Presentation or Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple. This day is based on Holy Tradition and on the Protoevangelion of James, an Apocryphal Book.

This Holy Day celebrated on November 21/December 4 is one of the four days on the calendar honoring her. The others are her Nativity, or Birth, the Annunciation, and her Dormition.

The Gospel reading for this day is the same one which is read on all four days dedicated to the Mother of God - Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28. The Epistle reading from Hebrews 9:1-17 differs. It describes the Holy of Holies in the Temple, which is very significant for this day because when the child was brought to the steps of the Temple by her parents, Joachim and Anna, she climbed the fifteen steps by herself and was led into the Holy of Holies by Zacharius. The reading reminds us that no one but a priest was allowed to enter this area and that only once a year.

This day is significant to the continuity of the calendar. It represents the end of the physical temple in Jerusalem as the dwelling place of God. She becomes the divine temple who will bear Christ the God. This day comes appropriately a few days around the beginning of the Advent Fast, which prepares us for this event.

YOUR CHURCH

On November 11, we will hear the Epistle read from Ephesians 2:4-10. Let us consider the following while we listen.

The Orthodox Church is not a mere organization. It is a living, breathing body. It is made up of imperfect men and women who by grace are enabled to use God's perfect means.

The Church that is true to its calling is one in which believers do not thwart God's purpose in saving them. That purpose is set forth by St. Paul in his epistle to the Ephesians 2:8-10: "By grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God – not because of works, lest any man should boast." If the Church forgets this, it has no message, no saving word for a lost world.

And if the Church stops with this, it lays itself open to the peril of Antinomianism, which was popular among the Gnostics. This teaches that faith alone is necessary for salvation; and Christians are released from obeying any moral law. The apostle goes on to say why God saved us: "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

There is a danger that one can go to the other extreme. That is believing that doing good is enough without giving adequate recognition to the saving Gospel. In other words, works without faith.

What then is the answer to present day confusion about the purpose of the Orthodox Church? It is for the Church to strive to be true to "the whole counsel of God." (Acts 20:27) It is for the Church to be what God has called it to be – a worshipping community of believers, proclaiming the Gospel of redemption, seeking to observe all things the Lord has commanded it. This, and nothing else than this, is what the Church is for.

There is a terrible danger that the Church shall become a large social service organization and be open for its main job the worship of God only once a week. What's first in your parish?

MEDITATION

<u>Thanksgiving for an Answer to a Prayer</u>

We give thanks to You, O King of All, because You have graciously listened to our prayers, and have granted the requests of Your servants. Help us to recognize that all good things come from You, and that You desire our happiness and salvation. We pray to You, O Lord: Hear us and have mercy.

You have gladdened the hearts of Your servants, and have heard our supplications as we called upon You with our whole heart. Guide us by Your life-giving Spirit, that we will give thanks to You on this day and do so for the rest of our lives. We pray to You, O Lord: hear us and have mercy.

Glory to You, O God of wondrous deeds! You have not rejected our prayers, nor removed Your steadfast love from us. Accept our heartfelt words of thanksgiving, so that we might sing to Your most-holy Name. We pray to You, O Lord: Hear us and have mercy.

Raymond Mastroberte
Choir Director

NOTES ON OUR 50TH

Our thanks for the 50 years of publication. You have touched many people and enlightened us on our Orthodox faith.

Steve and Irene Pacak

The Orthodox Herald provided a link to God and my culture at a time when I had given up on all else – I wish you both many, many years.

Anonymous

My family has been receiving **The Orthodox Herald** for many years now and I have always enjoyed it. Now that I am married and have moved away from New Jersey – I wish to receive a copy here in California.

Valerie (Hnatkow) Kline

This is probably (as far as I know) the only Orthodox magazine with such a long history. Being 50 years old, it looks like an adult shepherd which knows how and where to lead its sheep. May God always help you on the way of serving to His glory.

Jaroslaw Charkiewicz

Among this month's subscribers we have at least two which have been with us for the whole 50 years. God Bless You. Sophia Koronchik and Olga Barna.

GOOD WORKS

We may sometimes complain that it is hard to do good works in a world where there are so many obstacles and where there seems to be little appreciation for them. In Ephesians 2:4-10, St. Paul gives us a different perspective on this problem. He says it is more difficult **not to do them!**

He actually says we were created for good works. This is the way we work

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GOOD WORKS

best. It ought to be mercy and kindness that are the easiest for us. Our nature, created in innocence, ought to reflect the splendour of our Creator. Thus it is not strange that those who allow themselves to be seduced by evil become sad and ill in their bodies and their minds. It is hard to go against our essential nature!

But if that is so, then why are temptations sometimes so powerful and attractive? To answer that we should remember that we are in this world to learn - to win, with God's help, the gifts which He has given us. We shall have them for all eternity, but we must play our part to get them. It is a joy to work with such a good Teacher!

Let us keep on finding all kinds of good works to occupy us in our sojourn in this world. Let's help people. They are all around us. Let us console. Let us build good relations with those who love us and those who do not. Let us be especially grateful for the challenges they give us in our lives. They help us to be humble - let's trust God to give us the strength to love and to forgive.

Before us always are the immense riches of God's grace for ages to come!

Fr. Ihor Kutash, Ph.D.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What former shepherd boy is supposed to have written "The Lord is my shepherd?"
2. Who did Jesus command to shepherd His church?
3. Who was the first shepherd?
4. Who is the good shepherd?
5. What prophet said, "All we like sheep have gone astray"?
6. Which Old Testament book compares a lover's teeth to a flock of new shorn sheep?
7. In which gospel does Jesus speak of "separating the sheep from the goats?"

ANSWERS:

1. David (Psalm 23:1)
2. Peter (John 21:15-17)
3. Abel(Genesis 4:2)
4. Jesus (John 10:11)
5. Isaiah (53:6)
6. The Song of Solomon (4:2)
7. Matthew (25:32)

THE NEW STEP

Are you doing the Judas Shuffle? No, it is not a new dance step, it is something which is a concern in many parishes. Many people leave the house of God right after receiving the body and blood of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. Why? Do they want to be first out of the parking lot? Do they have more important business to do than thank God for His Holy Sacrifice? These may be the excuse given but the real reason is these people leave the Divine Liturgy early before the prayers of thanks because they don't believe that Christ is present in the Eucharist.

They are following the example of the infamous person that left the first Liturgy early because he did not believe and he followed Satan. Of course, this person was Judas Iscariot. We read about him in John 13:21-30: "Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.' ... And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. Now after the piece of bread Satan entered him. The Jesus said to him, 'What you do, do quickly.' ... Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night."

So the next time you think about leaving the Divine Liturgy right after receiving Holy Communion or you see someone else doing this, think about Judas shuffling off to betray Christ for thirty pieces of silver.

"For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body." 1 Cor 11:29

GUIDANCE FROM ABOVE

The Global Positioning System (GPS) is now available in many autos, and soon people will think they cannot live without it. It is changing the way we work, travel, and play. Using the signals from multiple satellites, an inexpensive GPS receiver can compute a location anywhere in the world. Using the information can help a lost hiker return to camp, enable a driver to locate a house in a strange city, guide commercial fishermen back to the place of a big catch, and even open your car door if you forget your keys in the car. In a very expanded sense, it is "guidance from above."

But it helps only the person who believes the information and acts on it. What if a person viewed the GPS readout and said: "I can't possibly be where this says I am"? What good would it be if a person turned off the unit, jammed it in a pocket, and headed out on his own, saying: "I know I'm going east, even if this thing says I'm going south"?

In a similar way, God's guidance through the Bible and the Church benefit us only when we trust His Word and obey it. Psalm 25:9-10 tells us: "The humble He guides in justice and the humble He teaches His way. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies."

Remember, guidance from above is promised to all who will accept God's Word and follow His direction.

CASSETTE LISTENING SCHEDULE

November 4 22nd Sunday

Luke 8:41-56	ns	Cassette 25
Luke 16:19-31	os	Cassette 23

November 11 23rd Sunday

Luke 10:25-37	ns	Cassette 24
Luke 8:26-39	os	Cassette 22

November 18 24th Sunday

Luke 12:16-21	ns	Cassette 26
Luke 8:41-56	os	Cassette 25

November 25 25th Sunday

Luke 13:10-17	ns	Cassette 26
Luke 10:25-37	os	Cassette 25

A complete set of tapes, consisting of 27 tapes, (54 programs, one for every Sunday of the year) is available for $130. They consist of the very best in Slavonic Liturgical music, a homily, and gospel reading. Perfect for someone who cannot get to church at all times and a boon for Sunday School teachers or the blind. They will thank you.

THE FIRST CHRISTIAN MARTYR

In Acts 6-8, a good man named Stephen became full of "faith and power" and went about preaching the word of Jesus. But certain powerful people began to fear that he was trying to teach about Jesus to "change the customs" by which they lived. Thus they "stirred up the people" against him. They became so irate that they cast him out of the city and stoned him to death. His body was claimed by "devout men" and with much lamentation he was buried.

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Fund-raisers and event planners are high-profile positions in some organizations and companies. Yet, in every parish, there are individuals (mostly women) who capably fill those positions without pay. Although not as exciting or glamorous as high-priced charity events that receive media coverage, church festivals and peroghi sales have built many of our churches and have kept them going.

Artists in the Church have grown beyond iconographers to now include photographers, craftsmen, and card designers. Writing is also an art that inspires the reader through spiritual advice, information, and stories.

Our lives are very busy today, but some people find time to share with others. They send cards, make phone calls, and visit the sick and elderly. They may help with errands and go out of their way to bring a person to church. These are people who have the gift of kind and caring hearts, and others are greatly blessed by their efforts.

For those who are ill and unable to come to church, their gifts of prayer are precious to God and greatly needed by the people in their parish community. I am reminded of a story about an elderly couple who lived a distance from the church. Although they couldn't help out at the church as they would have liked, they never passed up an opportunity to donate what little money they had to their church. No gift we have to offer is too small or insignificant if it is given with love.

Through the years, I've learned much about service to the Church from a special friend, Karoline Radosevich. Through the memories she has shared of the early years of our church, she always emphasized that people sacrificed and worked because it was "for our church." To do otherwise was unthinkable. Her personal philosophy is simple: "Go and work and do for the Lord."

Mrs. Radosevich has, also, shown me that it is never too late to use our talents. At the age of 105, she recently rediscovered a talent she has for playing the harmonica. She learned to play as a young girl in her village of Stupnitsa, Galicia. Now she plays for family and friends who visit. What a delight it was for me to hear her play! "Karoyka" tapped her feet to the music as she played several lively Russian folk tunes. (Songs she, no doubt, learned a century ago!)

Whatever we have to offer to God is a gift to Him – nothing will be too little or too late. The rest is simple. As Karoyka says, just "go and work and do for the Lord."

Margaret Pysarchyk

WHEN YOU AND YOUR CHILD COME TO CHURCH

This is an excellent time to teach your child many of the important facts and beliefs about our Faith.

November 4th is the feast of St. Michael and all the angels.

What are Angels?

Angels are spiritual beings created by God. They are intelligent beings, who on occasion assume bodily form to carry out God's work.

Their work is to eternally serve, glorify and praise God. We read in Isaiah (6:3) that he saw the Throne of God surrounded by myriad of angels who continuously sang, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth, the heavens and earth are full of your Glory."

In Orthodox belief, each human has a guardian angel.

Angels are found in Holy Scripture from Genesis to Revelations, they play important roles as messengers from God to men and women. (See Numbers 22:23, the book of Tobit, and Luke 1:11)

The Orthodox Study Bible lists 91 references to Angels, on page 7 in their concordance.

•Your Faith and Beliefs can be communicated to your children most efficiently by you.

Fr. Elias Mitchell

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WORD ORIGINATED IN BIBLE

"Armageddon," meaning an apocalyptic battle, is one of the most famous words that comes from the Bible. Its origin is Har Megiddon, "the mountain of Megiddon," where many battles were fought in the Old Testament. (Judges 5:19)

It is presumed that the final battle between the hosts of Heaven and Hell will be fought there ... a battle that will be called Armageddon. (Revelation 16:16)

Whatever

The Bible is like a storehouse of grace. For just as everyone finds whatever he desires in the storehouse of a rich man, so also does every soul find whatever is considered important in this book.

The rotunda in the U.S. Capitol has 14 by 20 foot paintings of the baptism of Pocahontas, the Pilgrims at prayer, and Christopher Columbus in the New World holding a cross and praying with his crew. Across from the rotunda, the congressional chapel has a stained glass window showing Washington seeking Divine guidance. Etched into the glass is a line from Psalm 16:1: "Preserve me, O God, for in Thee I put my trust."

There is a reason for the services offered for those who have died. St. Symeon explains the number of services and the reason why they should be offered. A service is offered on the third day because the reposed received his being through the Holy Trinity. A ninth-day service is offered so that his spirit will dwell together with the Holy Spirit and the angels – for there are nine orders or ranks of angels. A service is offered on the fortieth day because Christ ascended into heaven forty days after His Resurrection. It is traditional in some parishes to offer kolyva or kutya, which is made with grain because man is a seed and he will be raised up again by God's might.

Once the Divine Liturgy begins the priest should not leave the altar.

The Apostles founded five major centers of Christianity or Patriarchates throughout the Roman Empire during the first century. With the exception of the one in Rome, they are all Orthodox.

St. John Kronstadt held General Confession but he also celebrated the Divine Liturgy every day.

Some people have a spiritual disease identified as moral relativism. This teaches that everyone is entitled to their own beliefs, no matter how weird or anti-social and that no one can judge anyone or anything else.



EDITORS' NOTES

The tragedy, which beset our country on September 11, underlined the need for greater unity among the Orthodox in the U.S. It was heartening to read that IOCC, which is a charitable organization sanctioned by SCOBA, was called upon to coordinate relief. Why can't SCOBA discuss participation on matters religious such as prayer at national events? To most people it is of small importance whose face is under the klobuk. The important fact is that it be that of an Orthodox prelate. Perhaps it is time to establish a permanent clearing office for SCOBA.

There are many tour groups going to Russia and some to the Carpathian area, but to our knowledge there are none going to Belarus. We would organize one for next summer if there were enough zemlyaks out there who would be interested in making such a tour. Please let us know by December 30 if you are the least bit interested. If we get enough possibles, we will complete plans to see Minsk and much more.

We are happy to report that we now have 31 people who personally sponsor the packet plan in their parish. They are helping to spread the Word of God and information about the Orthodox faith.

There is a saying that societies are judged by how they treat their old. Perhaps this can be extended to churches. We find that the Greek Archdiocese has 175 retired pastors and 85 widowed presvyteras. The OCA has 105 retired pastors and 210 matushki. This is an astounding number of people who are no longer actively involved in parish life. Some volunteer their services where needed. What does the church give them in return for their years of service? Until 1990 this was not a concern, as there were very few retirees. It was a financial problem. This is now no longer a concern. But what respect do we show these people? The retirees of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese are always in a place of honor at local and national gatherings. They are allowed to take an active part in their "Sobors." They are honored at a special, private dinner with their hierarch. They have a paper for the retirees. Retirees from the OCA are seldom invited anywhere, and their expertise is shunned. We are not aware of policy in other jurisdictions, but we hope that they look closely upon this new grouping.

Alive in Christ summer issue had a very thought-stimulating article by Fr. Theodore Heckman, "On the Silent Prayers of the Liturgy." There now exists much confusion because many priests are chanting aloud the silent prayers. Why has this practice been started? Fr. Heckman gives learned answers. Send $1 and a business-sized, self-addressed, stamped envelope to The Orthodox Herald, P.O. Box 9, Hunlock Cr., PA 18621 for a copy of the article.

We had occasion to visit a hospital waiting room recently. There we found copies of the Watch Tower publications, Roman Catholic and some Protestant pamphlets and magazines. And there we found a copy of **The Orthodox Herald** with the subscriber's name blacked out. If you do not save your Heralds or pass them on to others, or your parish orders extras, take them to hospital, clinic and doctors' waiting rooms. Many priests take them to shut-ins they visit. Recycle them!

This is the month we in the U.S. celebrate Thanksgiving. We do have so much to be thankful for. The attacks on September 11 brought to our attention so much we have been taking for granted. We have printed a prayer on the front page of the paper and several inside this issue for your convenience. Please say a special prayer on this day to thank God for all He has given us and you.

The Stroyens

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God is willing and waiting to send a fresh wind of the Spirit across our lives, but we must want it, pray for it, repent of sin and commit ourselves anew.



It's hard not to nibble on food while the aroma of the main meal baking in the oven gets more and more irresistible. Many housewives put out a tray of fresh vegetables or a dip with chips. These help, but try adding a dish of kolbasie with wine sauce. These will disappear very fast.

KOLBASA IN WINE SAUCE

1 lb. kolbasa — 1/2 teas. salt
1/2 cup red wine — 1 Tbls. scallions
1/4 cup prepared mustard

Cook kolbasa in water to cover according to directions on package. Then cool. Remove skin, if desired. Cut into identical bite-sized pieces. Combine wine, mustard, salt and scallions or onion, chopped fine, in a saucepan. Add the kolbasa. Bring to boil. Simmer for two to three minutes. Arrange on platter. Provide toothpicks. Serve with thin slices of toasted bread squares or crackers.

LIGHTER MOMENT

Sunday School had just started for the year and the Book of Genesis was being studied. The little children in the beginner's class were especially interested when the teacher told them that God created everything, even human beings. She told them how Eve was created out of Adam's rib.

That afternoon, little Johnny was in his room. He was quiet so long that his mother became worried. She went to his room and found him lying on his bed looking as though he were ill. She quickly asked him what was wrong. Little Johnny, in a forlorn voice, answered her: "I have a pain in my side, I think I'm going to have a wife."

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A happy marriage is the union of two forgivers.

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WINTER'S GRACE

A teacher had a unique way of stimulating her students to think. From time to time she would write brief messages on the chalkboard that were unrelated to their current studies.

One morning, the students found the number 25,550 written on the board. One student finally raised his hand and asked the teacher why that particular number was there. She explained that 25,550 represented the number of days in the life of a person who lives to be 70. The teacher was trying to emphasize life's brevity and the value of each day.

When we are young and look ahead, time seems to move so slowly. It is hard to imagine what older people say – that time passed so quickly they wonder where it has gone. But as we grow older, the years seem short and fleeting, especially when compared with eternity.

This underscores what St. James said about life: "For what is your life. It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away." (James 4:14)

Therefore, it is important that we make the most of our opportunities to honor God, serve others, and proclaim Christ. Let's ask God to "teach us to number our days" (Psalm 90:12) so that we will spend them wisely!

USE ONE VERSION

One of the problems with our multiplicity of Bible versions is the difficulty of following along when someone reads from Scripture or when a Bible study is being held. This was not a problem in the early Church because at that time one person read and the others listened. Because not everyone could read, it was a treat to listen to a reader.

Home Bible Reading Schedule

NOVEMBER 2001

1 1 Cor 12:27-13:8	17 2 Cor 11:1-6
2 Col 4:10-18	18 **Eph 2:14-22**
3 Col 5:1-10	19 2 Thess 1:1-10
4 **Gal 6:11-18**	20 2 Thess 1:10-22
5 1 Thess 1:1-5	21 Heb 9:1-7
6 1 Thess 1:6-10	22 2 Thess 2:13-3:5
7 1 Thess 2:1-8	23 2 Thess 3:6-18
8 Heb 2:2-10	24 Eph 6:10-17
9 1 Thess 2:14-19	25 **Eph 4:1-6**
10 2 Cor 8:1-5	26 1 Tim 1:1-7
11 **Eph 2:4-10**	27 1 Tim 1:8-14
12 1 Thess 2:20-3:8	28 1 Tim 1:18-20, 2:8-15
13 Heb 7:26-8:2	29 1 Tim 3:1-13
14 1 Thess 4:1-12	30 1 Cor 4:9-16
15 1 Thess 5:1-8	
16 1 Cor 4:9-16	

BIBLE STUDY

This month many of the readings are taken from [illegible]salonians. At the time St. Paul wr[illegible]s letter to the believers in Thessalo[illegible] was a prominent seaport and ca[illegible]f the Roman province of Macedonia. [illegible] was of great importance as a trade route because it was located between the two centers of the known world – Rome and the East. It still exists but it's name has been shortened to Salonika (Greece).

This is the first epistle which St. Paul wrote. It was probably in the winter of the year 52, when he was in Corinth. It was inspired by the report which Timothy had given him (3:6). St. Paul had sent Timothy to encourage and strengthen the Church. It is the most personal of any of the Epistles.

In it St. Paul assures them of his continued interest in their welfare and of his concern for their faithfulness. He wishes to comfort them by giving them hope of an eventual reunion with their departed friends and family members at the Lord's return. They were well grounded in Christian doctrine, but their biggest problem seemed to be the matter of Christ's return.

St. Paul wrote this letter to the Gentiles in Thessalonika, so he does not use any Old Testament quotations because they would not be relevant to them.

He gives them practical advice as how they should conduct their lives in chapter 5:12-22. In Bible study compare this with his advice to the Romans chapter 12.

SPECIAL DAYS

These days are usually set aside on most parish calendars:

November 8/21 Synaxis of Archangels Michael and Gabriel and all the Heavenly Hosts. Usually referred to as St. Michael's Day.

November 15/28 Beginning of the Nativity Fast. Usually referred to as Advent, Philip's Fast or Philipovka.

Nov. 21/Dec. 4 Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple. Usually known as Presentation or Entrance.

Nov. 30/Dec. 13 St. Andrew. Usually referred to as Andreiya.

WHY IS IT CALLED THE BIBLE?

Our word Bible comes from the Greek word Byblos, which was the name of the city in Phoenicia that produced papyrus - the early form of paper - for the Greeks.

The word biblia was then coined to describe little books, and since the Scriptures are essentially that - a collection of little books - the word Bible was used to describe them.